

ZEN CENTER

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Minutes of the Business Meeting of March 7, 1964.

Present: Reverend Susuki

Trustees: Philip Wilson, Betty Warren, Graham Petchey, Dick Baker,  
Jean Ross, Bill Kwong, Mike and Trudy Dixon.

Members: Claud Ealenburg, Seiyo Tsuji.

Guests: J.J. Wilson.

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 10 a m by the president, Philip Wilson. The minutes of the business meeting of February 1 were read. A correction was made by Dick Baker, who pointed out that the fiscal year runs from January first to December 31st, rather than from February to February as the minutes stated.
- 2) A financial report for the past month was given by Grahame Petchey, treasurer. Dick Baker suggested that he make a comparison with the figures for last year at this time just to see how we are doing.
- 3) Trudy Dixon read a letter from a Mr. Robert Moran suggesting a program of contemporary music in relation to Zen be given at the Sokoji auditorium. After general discussion, it was agreed that such a program was unfeasible for Zen Center to sponsor for the following reasons: 1) the auditorium does not belong to us, and we are not in a position to arrange programs there; 2) we did not sponsor the art exhibit recently held in the Zendo ( which gave Mr. Moran the idea for a musical program); 3) Zen Center does not ordinarily arrange such cultural programs, although its members are on the whole indeed interested in attending them. This is probably because the organization has neither the financial nor temporal scope at the present time to undertake activities additional to its basic tasks at hand.
- 4) The next item of business, brought up by Betty Warren, was the scheduling of the next sesshin. The week-end of April 25th and 26th was chosen. Dick Baker asked Reverend Susuki if we would not like to invite Bishop Yamada to come up from Los Angeles to lead our sesshin this time. Reverend Susuki said it was a good idea if he can come. J.J. Wilson said that perhaps there was a main temple holiday during April. If he came at such a time, he could lead the ceremonies for the Japanese congregation too, which, as Reverend Susuki pointed out, would please them very much. However, such a ceremony would interrupt the Sunday of sesshin, thus shortening further an already short sesshin. Financially, it would help Zen Center, because the Japanese group would help pay Bishop Yamada's expenses, but for the sake of a continuous sesshin, it would be better to invite him for a non-holiday week-end. Thus April 25th and 26th was decided upon, rather than April 12th which is Buddha's birthday. If it is agreeable to Bishop

Yamaoka, and if he can come at that time, the sesshin will begin at

5:30 p m on the evening of Friday, April 24th and continue into the evening until Bishop Yamaoka should deem fit to halt. It will continue through-out the following days on regular sesshin schedule to terminate at 7:00 p m. on Sunday evening. For part of the Sunday sesshin it may be necessary to sit in the Zemu-kai Room at the back of the temple in order to clear the zendo for Sunday activities. With regard to Friday evening, all members planning to attend should eat dinner before they come, arriving whenever they can, as soon after 5:30 as possible. Philip Wilson suggested that Bishop Yamaoka be asked to schedule his talk for 6:30 or later so that those unable to come at 5:30 will yet be able to hear him.

5) The president then brought up the next item of business, which concerned Reverend Katagiri, who is now in San Francisco. Reverend Susuki said that he will now be living in this area and would like to help us from time to time, but that at the moment he needs some financial help. Jean Ross mentioned the great help he extended to her in Japan, what a strong and good person he was, and how fortunate we were to have him here. She said that one could not ask for a better assistant for Reverend Susuki. At present he is staying at Reverend Price's, where he does not have to pay rent. He also received offers from Grahame Petchey and to stay with them if he needs to. Reverend Katagiri is still a member of the Los Angeles temple, but both Bishop Umada and the Soto head-quarters approved his coming to San Francisco in order to further his study of English. Reverend Susuki said he would have to consult further with Bishop Umada to see if Reverend Katagiri could stay on here as an assistant. Philip Wilson suggested we vote an immediate emergency fund of 100 dollars to help him out at present. Dick Baker made a resolution to that effect, seconded by Grahame Petchey, and the vote carried.

6). The next item of business was the matter of the basis for membership in Zen Center. Dick Baker recommended that perhaps it be taken off a financial basis at all, and that prospective members just come to a meeting and be voted in by members.. Perhaps there should be some kind of minimum pledge, since the main voting issues concern the delegation of Zen Center funds. Reverend Susuki was asked how the Japanese group decided membership. He said that if they contributed \$10.00 a year, then they were considered members and could vote. It was generally felt by those present that this would be a good plan for Zen Center membership. Philip Wilson pointed out that membership in Zen Center is a purely practical affair. You do not have to be a member to sit at the Zendo or attend sesshins. Active membership just indicates that you wish to help Zen Center financially, and if you likewise attend meetings, to help it carry out its practical business. A list of active members is necessary, Dick Baker pointed out, at such a time when some critical financial issue comes up, and only active members should vote. (I.e. under the plan being considered, only those contributing \$10.00 or more a year). Anyone can come to Zen Center meetings if they are interested. And certainly those who plan to attend sesshin, for example, should be allowed to vote as to its scheduling, etc. It would only be if some critical issue that involved perhaps the spending of a considerable sum of money arose, that it would be asked before the vote that only Zen Center active members vote, ( though of course ideas and discussion from everybody would be welcome.) Dick Baker suggested that the Constitution should be checked to see what change of wording would be necessary, and that we should vote on this at next meeting.

6) The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andy Dixon, secretary